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**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20508**

August 16, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR AL YOUNG

FROM: GEOFFREY PITT 
SUBJECT: Agent Orange Working Group, August 15 Meeting
Prior to CDC Press Release on Birth Defects
and Agent Orange

Dr. House from the CDC presented the findings of the CDC's study prior to the August 16th press release. The study was a 3-year effort studying structural birth defects in children of Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange. The conclusion of the study is that Agent Orange exposure caused no increased incidence of structural birth defects. The next meeting of the AOWG is September 13, on female Vietnam veteran studies.

An outline of the CDC study, as presented by Dr. House, is as follows. Data on 7000 cases and 4000 controls were collected from babies diagnosed in their first year, during 1968-1980. Telephone interviews were conducted to determine the father's exposure to Agent Orange and exposure was rated on a 5-level scale. There was no increased risk for Vietnam veterans versus non veterans and Agent Orange exposed veterans versus non-veterans, and no increased risk for higher levels of exposure.

The exceptions were as follows: Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange had a higher risk of fathering children with spina bifida, cleft palates, and a category called "other neoplasms". They had a lower risk of fathering children with cardiovascular defects. There is a question whether any of these exceptions are biologically significant.

The data is now available for the public, but no more manipulations or studies are planned by CDC.